

# Regional Council Activity Report

February 25, 2004



## Executive Director's Report

Many times in our busy schedules we do not take the time to recognize the significant regional efforts of our member agencies. To recognize regional leadership, the Regional Council Executive Committee has restructured the Desert Peaks Awards Program.

The Desert Peaks Awards were established in 1998 to celebrate regional excellence and to recognize the partnerships and individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to promoting, recognizing, and attaining the ideals of regionalism. The awards represent the most prestigious regional honors bestowed in the state.

This year, we have changed the event to make it easier for all of the participants to attend. Desert Peaks will be held as part of the June Regional Council meeting. We are gathering sponsors for the event and will hold a reception instead of a dinner and provide the event at no cost to the participants. Also, we are moving the event to the Arizona Club in downtown Phoenix.

Last year, recognizing the budgetary concerns of the member agencies, we did not hold the event. We hope that this year we will have even more projects submitted in the various awards categories. If you need another Desert Peaks Awards application, please contact the MAG office. The deadline for submission is March 29, 2004.

**For more information on the Desert Peaks Awards, please contact Denise McClafferty at (602) 254-6300.**





## **Regional Council Meeting Report for February 25, 2004**

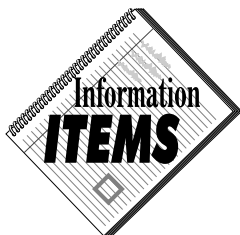
### **Action Items**

#### **Social Services Funding Recommendations Approved**

Funding recommendations to assist the most vulnerable residents of the region were approved by the MAG Regional Council. The recommendations on how to allocate approximately \$4 million in Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds came from the MAG Human Services Technical Committee and the Human Services Coordinating Committee. Under a planning contract with the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), the MAG Human Services planning program annually researches and solicits input on human services needs in the MAG region. The Human Services Coordinating Committee then identifies which services should be directed to address those needs. Recommendations include assistance programs for low-income children and families, elderly persons, victims of domestic violence, homeless people and individuals with disabilities.

Because the federal government has not yet specified and appropriated SSBG funding to the states for the 2004-2005 fiscal year, DES requested that MAG identify services and funding amounts using the same funding allocation figures as in the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

**For more information, please contact Debbra Determan, MAG Human Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.**



### **Information Items**

#### **Council Receives Update on 2005 Census Survey**

With a 2005 Census Survey and count of population in Group Quarters planned for September 1, 2005, member agencies were provided an update on what they need to do to prepare for the survey. MAG will enter into an agreement for undertaking the estimated \$7.7 million survey within the next several weeks. Initial installment payments will be provided with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds, with member agencies' share of costs due in July 2005. In addition, MAG and its member agencies will be required to provide the Census Bureau with telephone lines, testing locations, support for publicizing and promoting the Census Survey, space for training and office space, and associated office furniture/equipment and supplies. Member

agencies will also need to ensure that their corporate limits are reported to the Census Bureau through the annual Boundary and Annexation Survey; define any subregions for the survey (Phoenix and Mesa only); and work with MAG to identify group quarters and submit new permit completions.

The results of the survey and count of population in group quarters will be released by June 2006 and will be used for distributing state-shared revenues to member agencies from 2006 through 2010.

**For more information, please contact Harry Wolfe, MAG Socioeconomic Program Manager, (602) 254-6300.**

### **New Projects Discussed for FY 2005**

Each year, the Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget is developed with member agency and public input. A presentation was provided to outline revenue projections and proposed expenditures for FY 2005. Among the new projects being considered are several environmental surveys; human services projects involving a data partnership for human services resources and a domestic violence training program; projects involving socioeconomic data collection and models upgrades; regional development programs, and a number of transportation projects, including an ADOT/MAG freeway traffic count system, safety and intelligent transportation system projects, and several pedestrian and bicycling programs.

The proposed budget assumes \$14.6 million in revenues and \$14.6 million in expenditures, including \$729,000 in contingency funding. The Work Program is reviewed each year by the federal agencies and approved by the Regional Council in May.

**For more information, please contact Rebecca Kimbrough, MAG Fiscal Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.**



### **Upcoming Events**

#### **MAG at the Mall March 20**

The Maricopa Association of Governments, in conjunction with the Arizona Department of Transportation and Valley Metro, will host its next MAG at the Mall event Saturday, March 20 at Chandler Fashion Center, 3111 W. Chandler Boulevard. Beginning at 11:00 a.m., MAG will provide information about the

Regional Transportation Plan and staff will be on hand to answer questions from the public about projects in the Plan.

**For more information, please contact Kelly Taft, MAG Communications Manager, (602) 254-6300.**

### **Next Regional Council Meeting**

The next Regional Council meeting is Wednesday, March 24, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 200, Phoenix. Agenda items are expected to include recommended approval of the draft FY 2009 project list for the MAG Region Statewide Program and the update of the Life Cycle Program for the MAG Regional Freeway System; recommended adoption of the Draft MAG One-Hour Ozone Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for the Maricopa County Nonattainment Area; MAG Regional Videoconferencing System Awards; and discussion of the Draft FY 2005 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget.

**For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.**